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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/667,259	09/19/2003	Jason Dondlinger	29020/308A	1150

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EXAMINER

REDMAN, JERRY E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3634

DATE MAILED: 06/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/667,259

Applicant(s)

DONDLINGER ET AL.

Examiner

Jerry Redman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 and 33-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 and 33-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date see action.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

The applicant's information disclosure statements dated 3/4/2005; 10/28/2004; and 7/19/2004 have been considered and a copy has been placed in the file. The information disclosure statement dated 3/4/2005, both the international search report and the written opinion were not considered since the applicant failed to provide a copy.

Status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 28-32 have been cancelled; and

Claims 1-27 and 33-49 are herein addressed below.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the inflatable seal comprising a porous material as recited in claims 17 and 27 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering

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of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 6-9, 11-14, 17, 33-36, 38, 42-44, and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ganzinotti. Ganzinotti discloses a door system comprising a door exposed to an atmosphere of air comprising a door member (2, fixed), a door panel (3 or 7) that is movable relative to the door member (2), an inflatable seal (8, along the top and side or along the side and bottom, i.e., L-shape; all seals are "porous" meaning they have pores and are not completely smooth) between the door member (2) and the door panel (3 or 7) having an air inlet (8b), an air outlet (8c) to atmosphere via the seal (8). Ganzinotti further discloses a pressure reducer (10, via a pump/blower) connected to either the door member (2) or door panel (3 or 7) via flexible pipes (column 2, lines 40-45) and a heating element (12). Figure 3 of Ganzinotti discloses the release of air along the bottom portion of the door panel (3 or 7) and Figure 4 discloses the air moving back through a fluid mover (i.e., pump/blower/fan).

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 10, 18-27, 37, 39, 45, and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ganzinotti in view of Knap. All of the elements of the instant invention are discussed in detail above except providing the following: the panel translates, the door member is a sliding panel, and a floor associated with the door member. Knap discloses an inflatable door system for a pair of sliding/translating door panels within a floor/sill (1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the door system of Ganzinotti with a pair of sliding panels guided along a floor as taught by Knap since two sliding panels provides a larger opening within a wall to be exposed thereby allowing greater movement of material and goods therethrough.


Claims 15, 16, 40, 41, 48, and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ganzinotti in view of Long et al. All of the elements of the instant invention are discussed in detail above except providing the seal with thermal insulation. Long et al. disclose a heated inflatable seal having thermal insulation. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the

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seal of Ganzinotti with thermal insulation as taught by Long et al. since thermal insulation provides less heat transfer and thereby increases the efficiency of the system.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. patent to Mueller discloses an inflatable seal similar to that of the applicant's invention. Great Britain patent to Kemp discloses a seal just around a side and bottom portion of a door similar to that of the applicant's invention. U.S. patent to Luce discloses an inflatable seal assembly for a sliding door similar to that of the applicant's invention. U.S. patent to Janke discloses an inflatable seal assembly for a sliding door similar to that of the applicant's invention. U.S. patent to Vanesky et al. disclose an inflatable seal assembly for a sliding door similar to that of the applicant's invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Jerry Redman at telephone number 571-272-6835.


Jerry Redman
Primary Examiner